

November 11, 2018  
John 15:12-17

## WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

### I. Introduction

<sup>12</sup>This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. <sup>14</sup>You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. <sup>15</sup>No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup>These things I command you, that you love one another." John 15:12-17

### II. Characteristics Of Whom Jesus Calls Friends:

#### A. Friends Of Jesus Love One Another Just As He Loved Us (John 15:12, 13, 17)

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

1. Jesus Love For Us Is The Supreme Standard For Us To Love One Another
2. We Love One Another As We Abide In Christ's Love
3. The "Others" That We Are Commanded To Love Are Imperfect Sinners Just Like Us

## **B. Friends Of Jesus Obey His Commandments**

“You are My friends if you do what I command you.”  
John 15:14

“If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.” John 15:10

## **C. Friends Of Jesus Understand The Truths That He Has Made Known To Us**

“No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.” John 15:15

## **D. Friends Of Jesus Are Chosen To Bear Fruit**

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you.” John 15:16

### **III. Conclusion And Application:**

**POINTS TO PONDER**  
**Week of November 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**John 15:12-17**

#### **Open It**

1. What are the marks of a true friendship?
2. \*What do you do to maintain your friendships?

## **Explore It**

3. How are Jesus and the Father related? (15:1)
4. What is Jesus and who is the Father? (15:1)
5. How does the gardener tend to the branches that bear fruit and the branches that do not? (15:2)
6. What did Jesus say the branches must do in order to bear fruit? (15:4)
7. Who are the branches? (15:5)
8. What did Jesus say would happen to the branches that did not remain in Him? (15:6)
9. What privilege was given to the branches that remained in the vine? (15:7)
10. What would be demonstrated by the disciples' bearing much fruit? (15:8)
11. \*What did Jesus urge His disciples to do? (15:9)
12. How were Jesus' disciples to remain in His love? (15:10)
13. Why did Jesus talk with His disciples about vines and branches? (15:11)
14. What command did Jesus give His disciples? (15:12)
15. \*What is the greatest manifestation of love? (15:13)
16. Who did Jesus say were His friends? (15:14)
17. \*Why did Jesus call His disciples friends? (15:15)

18. Why did Jesus choose His disciples? (15:16)

19. What was Jesus' command? (15:17)

### **Get It**

20. How are we to remain in Jesus? Why?

21. What does it mean to bear fruit as a Christian?

22. How are we to bear fruit?

23. \*When is it difficult to develop and maintain a personal relationship with Jesus?

24. In what way has God been removing "dead" or useless pieces from your character?

25. In what way is your joy complete?

26. When do you struggle with loving others the way Jesus has loved you?

27. \*What kind of friend are you to Jesus?

28. Why is it hard to be Jesus' friend?

### **Apply It**

29. What steps can you take to develop a more intimate relationship with Christ?

30. \*How can you be a better friend to Jesus beginning today?